

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005

*Higher Education Complex
2500 Broadway
Helena MT 59620
Conference Room 102A*

CALL TO ORDER

CSPAC Chair, Ms. Gloria Curdy, called the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council to order on Thursday January 20, 2005 at 8:34AM. CSPAC council members present were: Ms. Gloria Curdy, Chair; Mr. Scott McCulloch, Vice Chair; Dr. George White; Dr. Douglas Reisig; and Ms. Tonia Bloom. Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson was absent. Staff members present were: Mr. Peter Donovan, Administrative Officer for CSPAC; Mr. Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary to the Board of Public Education; Ms. Suzan Hopkins, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Public Education; and Ms. Sarah Flemming, CSPAC Secretary. The following people signed the meeting roster: Ms. Deena Alley, University of Montana-Western; Dr. Linda Peterson, Office of Public Instruction; Mr. Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); and Mr. Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA).

Dr. George White stated that there were some corrections that needed to be made to the minutes of the September 16 & 17, 2005 CSPAC meeting. These changes were made.

Motion: Mr. Scott McCulloch made a motion to approve the September 16 & 17 CSPAC meeting minutes as revised. Dr. Doug Reisig seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Peter Donovan reviewed CSPAC correspondence. This included a letter to Representative Carol Juneau, a letter from Mr. Meloy, a letter about the planning committee, and a letter from Ms. Curdy to Dr. Miller. Mr. Donovan reviewed a letter from Dr. Peterson, Dr. White, and himself about the PEPPS review. All work done for the PEPPS review will come to the council. Mr. Donovan stated that he served as a facilitator for the Montana Educator Forum. He stated that attendance by CSPAC members was much appreciated. He stated that he welcomes comments and suggestions from CSPAC members for the next Montana Educator Forum.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Gloria Curdy

Ms. Curdy stated that the council must plan for the upcoming joint meeting with the Board of Public Education to be held March 10, 2005 in Helena. She requested suggested agenda items from the council for the meeting. The council agreed that a review of the CSPAC bylaws, the CSPAC Annual Report, the Montana response to the Department of Education on the definition of highly qualified teacher, the proposed items of research, and the response to the legislature should be included in the agenda.

ITEM 2 CHAIR’S REPORT – Gloria Curdy

Ms. Curdy formally introduced Tonia Bloom, the new CSPAC council member. Ms. Curdy stated that Ms. Bloom brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to the CSPAC Board. Ms. Bloom has been a member of the Corvallis School Board for 18 years. She is a member of the MT K-12 Renewal Commission and is the volunteer coordinator for the Corvallis Reading is Fundamental program.

Ms. Curdy reviewed the highlights of the 2005 Western States Certification Conference (WSCC) she attended in Santa Fe from January 11- 13, 2005. Mr. Donovan and Dr. White also attended the conference. The highlights included a report on education policy in Washington, a report on three-tiered certification in New Mexico, a report on outsourcing certification, and Dr. White’s presentation entitled “Credits, Competency or Change?”.

The council discussed the three-tiered certification program in New Mexico and outsourcing. Ms. Curdy invited Ms. Elizabeth Keller, Certification Manager at OPI, to make comments regarding the conference. Ms. Keller also commented on the topic of outsourcing. Ms. Curdy encouraged council members to attend the WSCC conference in San Francisco next year.

ITEM 3 BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Steve Meloy

Mr. Meloy welcomed Ms. Tonia Bloom to CSPAC. He stated that she is a great asset to the Renewal Commission.

Mr. Meloy presented to the council the Board of Public Education report. He updated the council on the status of the three people denied teacher licensure in Montana. He stated that a subcommittee of the Board of Public Education consisting of Mr. John Fuller, Ms. Patty Myers, and Dr. Kirk Miller attended a hearing to determine if the three people denied licensure should receive certification. In January, the Board of Public Education upheld the subcommittee hearing examiners’ finding of fact and conclusions of law. Mr. Meloy stated that CSPAC has been asked by the Board of Public Education to be involved in the process with OPI to resolve the issue by reviewing the language in Chapter 57 on teacher licensure. Dr. George White requested that the discussion be deferred until Item 9. Council agreed to defer the discussion.

Mr. Meloy updated the council on the P-20 Committee. He stated that the P-20 committee was focusing on the following issues: the strategic plan, the dual credit task force, the P-20 policy audit, the monitoring of K-12 Distance Education Initiative at the University of Montana, and the Counselor Leadership Initiative.

Mr. Meloy provided an update on the Renewal Commission. He reviewed important Renewal Commission legislation that includes Senate Bill 152, which would define a basic system of quality schools; Senate Bill 170, which would allow schools more flexibility in their day-hour calendar; House Bill-124, which would provide a K-12 health insurance program; and House Bill 2, which would appropriate funds to restore the Gifted and Talented program and provide school districts with more resources for Special Education.

Mr. Meloy also mentioned Draft Bill LC501 that would provide for a statewide equalization for K-12 BASE aid, and Senate Bill 13 that would allow school districts to collect A and B for students educated through electronic delivery. Mr. Meloy requested help from the council to oppose Senate Bill 10 that prohibits the Board of Public Education from implementing any policy or standard that would significantly impact school budgets until the legislature has appropriated sufficient funding.

Mr. Meloy stated that the two major collaboration projects of the Board of Education and the Board of Regents were a direct result of legislation. He stated that they are recommending the state take a holistic approach when discussing the improvement of Montana's economy. He stated that research shows better education promises a better economy.

Mr. Meloy provided an update on the CSPAC budget. He stated that the CSPAC budget is utilizing its research fund to get through the fiscal year. The CSPAC budget was restricted in the budget process to what was spent in the base. Budget expenditures included the printing of the Renewal Commission report, as well as work on the assessment task force. Mr. Meloy requested that the council does not spend its budget on research outsourced to out-of-state companies. He also requested that any CSPAC council member who would like to spend the CSPAC budget on research to write him a letter detailing the proposed project so he could present it to the Board of Public Education.

Dr. White asked if the licensure fee for teachers would be raised in order to pay for the CSPAC budget. Mr. Meloy responded that not at this time, but perhaps in the future. In a response to a question Ms. Bloom, Mr. Donovan alerted the council's attention to the NASDTEC Knowledge Base that has a comparative analysis of licensure fees between states. Ms. Curdy requested that teacher licensure fees be added to the fall agenda. Dr. White requested more scientific data and research pertinent to the issue.

Mr. Meloy stated that the Board of Public Education will be doing a statewide literature drop within the month. The project has received funding from a number of businesses in the private sector.

ITEM 4 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – Pete Donovan

Mr. Donovan reviewed the meetings he attended from September 17- January 14, 2005. He brought special attention to his meeting with teacher educators from Pakistan. Mr. Donovan stated that during this meeting he and Mr. Meloy discussed the role of the Board of Public Education and the role of CSPAC. Mr. Donovan provided the council with a brief summary of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Board of Directors meeting. The next NASDTEC Board of Director meeting will be held February 4-5, 2005.

Mr. Donovan reminded the committee that work on the CSPAC Annual Report to the Board of Public Education will begin. He asked that CSPAC members notify him about any information they would like to include in the report.

Mr. Donovan introduced Sarah Flemming, the new CSPAC secretary to the council. He asked that the committee recognize the outstanding work of Suzan Hopkins, who acted as the CSPAC Secretary while the position was unfilled.

ITEM 5 MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING COMMITTEE
Melodee Smith-Burreson

Ms. Melodee Smith-Burreson was unable to attend the CSPAC meeting. Instead, Mr. Donovan provided a review of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future meeting that was held November 14-15, 2005. Mr. Donovan stated that there was an important discussion about Strategies for Enhancing Professional Development for Educators in Montana. Mr. Donovan stated that the group does not have plans to meet in the near future.

ITEM 6 LICENSURE COMMITTEE REPORT – Dr.Doug Reisig

Dr. Reisig introduced the paraprofessional panel he had invited. Panel members included Ms. Nancy Marks, a special educator in Missoula, the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) Region 5 coordinator, and a member of the Paraprofessional Consortium; Ms. Karen Lewis, MEA/MFT; Ms. Linda Rieten, Professor of Special Education at University of Montana-Western; and Mr. Erik Burke, Director of Public Policy for MEA/MFT. The panel was asked to discuss paraprofessionals, certification for paraprofessionals, and transferability and portability of certification.

Ms. Nancy Marks presented on the role of the Paraprofessional Consortium. She stated that some of their recent projects included the completion of a resource guide, the completion of an orientation packet and presentation for paraprofessionals, the implementation of paraprofessional recognition awards, and the completion of research for assessments on the No Child Left Behind Act. The consortium is in the process of creating a side by side on paraprofessional training in the state.

Ms. Karen Lewis, a paraprofessional at Rossiter Grade School in Helena, reported on standards for paraprofessionals. Ms. Lewis stated that she has been involved in an MEA/MFT pilot training for paraprofessionals.

Mr. Erik Burke presented the updated requirements for newly hired paraprofessionals. He stated that under the No Child Left Behind Act, paraprofessionals must possess a high school diploma and also complete two years of study at an institution of higher education. They must obtain an associate's degree or higher, or pass a state or local assessment.

At 11:30AM Dr. George White exited the meeting.

Ms. Linda Rieten stated that she is in possession of a Title II grant that provides education for paraprofessionals. She reviewed the merits of the program with the council. She stated that she is searching for funds to start another cohort because she believes in the importance of education in improving the confidence of paraprofessionals.

Mr. Scott McCulloch moved that CSPAC endorse the concept of
Paraprofessional Certification. Ms. Gloria Curdy seconded the motion.
Motion unanimously carried.

Dr. Reisig reported on the Regional Advisory Committees for Educational Needs Assessment (RAC) actions to the council. He stated that he and Mr. Bud Williams, Deputy Superintendent, OPI, are doing a statewide outreach for the RAC. He stated that they have received very little comment from agencies in the state about the Northwest lab. He alerted the council to the next RAC teleconference which will be held February 9, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Mountain Standard Time. Bids for the Northwest lab will be awarded in September. Ms. Gloria Curdy officially thanked Dr. Reisig for his participation in the RAC.

Dr. Reisig invited Dr. John Lundt from the University of Montana to discuss the Montana Distance Education Initiative. Dr. Lundt reviewed the highlights and findings of the Distance Education program. He stated that the purpose of the project was to provide students in rural areas with coursework they may not have the opportunity to access, and to provide Montana teachers with the opportunity to teach online in order to help retain qualified teachers in Montana. The pilot program runs through the 2004-2005 school year.

Dr. Lundt stated that thus far the Montana Distance Education Initiative has discovered some interesting findings. He stated that a substantial number of students that had failed classes opted to take classes online for academic recovery. He stated that distance education is serving home-school students and special need students. He stated that there is currently legislation on the table for state-funded distance learning. Dr. Lundt stated he believes that the analysis of the Montana Distance Learning initiative will conclude it has been successful.

ITEM 7 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT – Tonia Bloom

Ms. Tonia Bloom reviewed the “Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics.” She asked if there were any proposals to amend or change the Code of Ethics. No changes to the code were proposed.

***Mr. George White returned during the 12:15 lunch break.**

ITEM 8 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE REPORT Charla Bunker

Ms. Charla Bunker reviewed the key findings in the MGT Professional Development Reports for Educators in Montana from 1998 and 2001. Ms. Bunker asked that the committee discuss the relevancy of the 10 recommendations to CSPAC that were made in the 1998 MGT report.

Dr. Reisig stated he believed these 10 recommendations were still relevant. Dr. George White concurred and stated that his district was unable to place students in field experience, and is placing them in non-teaching sites such as day cares. Ms. Deena Alley, Director of Field Services at University of Montana-Western, agreed with Dr. White and stated that she was having a problem placing student teachers.

**ITEM 9 PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REPORT – Dr. George White**

Dr. White stated that he was unable to attend the Teacher Testing Pilot Study. He stated that they are going to do a Proxis II test again for student teachers that will be student teaching in the fall semester. The Pilot Study Committee has been working with Educational Testing Services (ETS) and Dr. Linda Peterson from OPI. Dr. Peterson updated the council on the teacher testing pilot study.

Ms. Curdy asked that issues surrounding the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) be addressed in the Spring meeting.

Dr. White reviewed the meeting in December with the Department of Education and education stakeholders regarding Montana's definition of "highly qualified" teachers. Dr. White reported that the Department of Education is behind on its timeline and that Montana has not yet received its report to determine if Montana's definition is adequate.

Dr. Linda Peterson reported that all of Montana's teachers are highly qualified under the state of Montana's definition. Dr. White concurred, and stated that all of the teachers in Montana that have been granted licensure are "highly qualified." However, he stated that the new administration has implemented a new definition for "highly qualified." Dr. White stated that though he believes Montana's definition is sufficient, the state will have to wait until it receives its report from the Department of Education.

Dr. White introduced a panel to begin the discussion of Chapter 57 and asked that the proposed changes to the documents be presented.

Ms. Margaret Bowles from OPI discussed alternative certification, educator licensure, and proposed language changes to 10.57.102. She stated that some people were recently denied licensure in the state of Montana because they had alternative certification routes and no student teaching experience. She stated the reason for the language change is to eliminate the barrier to licensure for people who have gone through alternative certification routes and have significant field experience.

Ms. Bowles pointed out the language changes to 10-57-102 that would allow students of alternative routes to certification to be granted licensure in the state of Montana. She stated that the language was removed that said licensure would be granted to applicants that have approval of a state board of education. She stated that it was replaced with a requirement for regional accreditation. She also pointed out other changes to the language that included a requirement of applicants to possess 6 education credits and supervised teaching experience.

Mr. Dave Puyear from MREA provided the council with an overview of his concerns over the proposed changes. He stated that he is concerned by a lack of data, the deletion of the acceptance of state board certification, and the lack of clear definitions of what defines six credits.

Mr. Lance Melton from MTSBA stated that he understood why a language change was needed, but at this time there was no consensus over the language. Mr. Dave Puyear and Mr. Lance

Melton asked that they be given more time to come to a consensus with OPI and other parties involved. Dr. White stated that the draft language of 10.57.201 is close to a consensus, and he challenged his committee to come to a consensus on the language in February in order to be able to present it in March to CSPAC.

ITEM 10 RESEARCH PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT – Scott McCulloch

Mr. Scott McCulloch stated that the Research Projects Oversight Committee would like to continue with scientific methodology as its approach to research projects. He stated that the committee would examine everything from NCATE to PEPPS. He stated that the committee was open to all ideas.

ITEM 11 PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

Mr. Donovan stated that the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Annual Conference will be held June 5 –8, 2005.

Mr. Scott McCullough moved to send three people to NASDEC. Ms. Tonia Bloom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Donovan stated that the planning session is coming up for the Montana Educator Forum. He asked the council to alert him or Ms. Bunker of any topics that need to be brought to the Forum's attention. Ms. Curdy suggested that the discussion of paraprofessional licensure be mentioned at the Forum.

Dr. Peterson requested that a CSPAC representative attend the NCATE University of Montana review from April 9-13, 2005. Mr. Donovan agreed to attend.

ITEM 12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Montana Educator Forum: Possible research projects
IDEA Reauthorization
Field Experience Placement Problems
Review of Bylaws
CSPAC Annual Report
Department of Education Responses
Items of Research
Response to legislature
Praxis Testing
Paraprofessional Licensure
Chapter 58 Rewrite (PEPPS)
CSPAC Meeting Calendar
Indian Education for All

ITEM 13 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF CSPAC

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Ms. Curdy moved to adjourn at 3:43PM. Ms. Bunker seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate. Persons requiring such accommodations should make their requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible before the meeting to allow adequate time for special arrangements. You may write or call: CSPAC, PO Box 200601, 2500 Broadway, Helena, MT 59620-0601, (406) 444-6576.